

## Message Text

SECRET

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70

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /092 W

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R 231735Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1267

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 14058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRENCH REACTING NEGATIVELY TO FRG  
INITIATIVE

REF: BONN 12479 DTG 231726Z JUL 76

1. FOREIGN OFFICE MBFR DEPUTY DIRECTOR GESCHER ADVISED  
US TODAY THAT THE FRENCH ARE REACTING NEGATIVELY TO THE  
BILATERAL INITIATIVE TAKEN BY RUTH ON JULY 22 IN PARIS  
(REFTEL).

2. GESCHER SAID HE CALLED MISTRAL TO TRY TO SCHEDULE  
AN APPOINTMENT FOR RUTH LATER THIS MONTH. HOWEVER,  
MISTRAL REBUFFED THE APPROACH BY SAYING THERE WAS NO  
POINT TO SUCH A VISIT SINCE THE FRENCH POSITION HAD NOT  
CHANGED. GESCHER CONTINUED THAT THE FRG EMBASSY IN  
PARIS HAD ALSO REPORTED THAT THE FRENCH WERE NEGATIVE  
TOWARD THE ARGUMENTS ADVANCED BY RUTH, BUT THAT THEY HAD  
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NOT YET DEVELOPED A FORMAL RESPONSE.

3. GESCHER SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED BY THE FRENCH REACTION, BUT THAT THE FRG WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS PARIS FOR A FORMAL RESPONSE. HE NOTED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO OBTAIN SUCH A RESPONSE SINCE, EVEN IF NEGATIVE, THE FRG COULD THEN TRY TO COUNTER IT WITH FURTHER ARGUMENTS. GESCHER INDICATED THAT WHEN RUTH RETURNS TO WORK ON AUGUST 25 HE WOULD PROBABLY CALL MISTRAL HIMSELF TO TRY TO ARRANGE A MEETING.

4. GESCHER WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO SUGGEST A SPECIFIC COURSE OF ACTION FOR THE ALLIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSUADING THE FRENCH TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS SHOULD GERMAN EFFORTS PROVE UNAVAILING. HE SAID THE FRG WOULD PROBABLY NOT WANT TO BRING POLITICAL PRESSURE TO BEAR JUST PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER 3 ELECTIONS NOTING, IN THIS CONNECTION, REPORTS OF POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL CHANGES SOON IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.  
HILLENBRAND

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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